WORLD CUP CONTINUES AS USA FACES CHINA

THE AMERICAN WOMEN ARE JUST THREE WINS FROM GLORY. PAGE 26

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Summer movies. Mark Wahlberg breaks his "no sequels" rule with the raunchy follow-up to "Ted." PAGE 15

Mark Wahlberg reunites with his Seth MacFarlane-voiced talking teddy bear friend in "Ted 2," which introduces Amanda Seyfried to the party. / UNIVERSAL PICTURES

1 in 4 creative jobs gone: Report

PAGE 02

US Supreme Court backs Obamacare

PAGE 10

William Hurt takes on AI in 'Humans'

PAGE 19

Get ready to go outside with Ingrid Michaelson

PAGES 20-21

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Where is the creative job growth? Not in Philly

Economy. A new report says 1 in 4 jobs in Philly creative industries have disappeared in the last decade.

For years, we've heard that Philadelphia's population has grown, thanks in large part to young people attracted by a vibrant and expanding arts scene.

While it's true that Philadelphia's population has grown, a new analysis by a New York City public policy organization has cast doubt on whether creative industries are actually growing in Philadelphia.

The size of creative industries in Philadelphia fell 24 percent between 2003 and 2013 to 11,841 jobs, according to the Center for an Urban Future, which says Philadelphia came in dead last in job growth among cities it analyzed.

The new report, which was designed to highlight the importance of creative industries to New York City's economy, used Bureau of Labor Statistics to count the number of people employed in the architecture, television and film production, advertising, publishing and other industries.

Growth in the Big Apple's creative economy topped 15 percent to 216,000 jobs, the report noted, despite sky-high real estate costs and a high cost of living that makes paychecks seem comparatively smaller.

Local arts administrators questioned the numbers in the Center for an Urban Future analysis.

"It doesn't seem logical to me," said Sharon Pinkenson, executive director of the Greater Philadelphia Film Office.

An analysis by the Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance pegs the number of local arts-related jobs at 44,000.

The difference might be that the two organizations are counting different things. The Center for Urban Future's analysis excludes freelancers. The cultural alliance includes chefs and bartenders whose jobs are supported by arts funding in their review of available data.

For those on the hunt for jobs in the arts, Philly's lower cost of living give young creators lots of opportunities to experiment.

"There are lots of places you can go and create work, said Hannah Van Sciver, 22, an actress, photographer and restaurant hostess. "I also know that a decade from now or two decades from now, I don't know if I want to be in Philly."

By the numbers

24%

The size of creative industries in Philadelphia fell 24 percent between 2003 and 2013.

11.8K

There are 11,841 creative industries.

Artists work at Neighborhood Time Exchange in West Philly. / JENNIFER KERRIGAN

DAN KELLEY
@MetroPhilly
dan.kelley@metro.us

Several tall ships and one giant rubber duck

Yes, that duck is real. The famous giant rubber ducky joined the Tall Ships Philadelphia Camden festival Thursday, although it was briefly stuck against a ship and then paddled up the river at a snail's pace. The festival lasts all weekend at Penn's Landing.

MATTHEW LEISTER

Lazy

Audit: No consequences for lax city workers

For those of you who have a little trouble getting out of bed in the morning, a new audit by City Controller Alan Butkovitz suggests an ideal workplace: city government.

Half of the city's 42 departments lack any policy for showing up late to work, according to an audit the controller released Thursday.

There was also lax monitoring of paid time off in 10 departments.

"These departments are leaving themselves exposed to higher risks for employees to abuse city time by not requiring and enforcing written policies," Butkovitz said. "The finance director needs to address these issues with management within every agency."

DAN KELLEY

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Controversial gun law struck down

A state court on Thursday deemed as unconstitutional a controversial law that prohibited any township or municipality in the state from enacting gun-related ordinances that aren't already part of state law.

Act 192, signed by former Gov. Tom Corbett in November, also allowed out-of-state groups like the National Rifle Association to sue any municipality for having such ordinances.

Mayor Nutter called the decision "a great victory for cities, for public safety and for good government."

"Philadelphia is grateful to be allowed to pursue its common sense gun safety agenda — including requiring persons who lose their guns or have their guns stolen to take the obviously sensible step of reporting the loss or theft to the police — without interference from an advocacy organization like the NRA that does not speak for the citizens of Philadelphia or Pennsylvania," he said.

The decision came down in response to a lawsuit filed by a group of lawmakers led by State Sen. Daylin Leach against the state.

Prior to it being struck down, the NRA had filed lawsuits against Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Lancaster over their local gun ordinances.

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Participants in the 2014 Philly Pride Day Parade celebrate LGBT people and culture in Center City. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER, METRO

Gays can't protest at Catholic meeting

Getting along. Gays can't use U.S. Catholic family meeting to attack Church, a bishop said.

Homosexuals can attend a Catholic family congress in Philadelphia during Pope Francis' U.S. visit this year but won't be allowed to use it to attack Church teachings, the city's archbishop said on Thursday.

"We don't want to provide a platform at the meeting for people to lobby for positions contrary to the life of our Church," said Archbishop Charles Chaput. The Catholic Church teaches homosexuality is not sinful but homosexual acts are.

"We are not providing that kind of lobbying opportunity," he told a news conference presenting the September 22-27 congress known as the World Meeting of Families.

Gay Catholic groups and families headed by gay Catholics had asked for an official presence at the gathering to present their view that homosexuals should be fully welcomed in the Church.

The pope will attend the last two days of the Philadelphia meeting at the end of a trip that will take him to Cuba as well as New York and Washington.

"We hope that everyone feels welcome and certainly people who have experienced same-sex attraction are welcome like everyone else," Chaput said. REUTERS

About the World Meeting of Families

About 15,000 people from around the world are expected to attend the family congress.

- It will be the eighth one since the event was started by the late Pope John Paul in 1994 to promote traditional family values. It is held every three years in a different city.
- Organizers said they expect up to two million people to attend the final event, a Mass by the pope on Benjamin Franklin Parkway, a boulevard that runs through the city.

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The Ernest Opinion

ERNEST OWENS

AWARD-WINNING MULTIMEDIA JOURNALIST ERNEST OWENS IS A KEEN OBSERVER OF SOCIAL, LGBT AND RACE ISSUES IN PHILADELPHIA. FOLLOW HIM @MRERNESTOWENS

CONFEDERATE FLAGS AND CHEESESTEAKS

Philadelphians think their bigotry doesn't stink.

As a Texas transplant, I'm here to confirm that it does.

After the horrific national tragedy that is Charleston, it seems as though Philadelphia and its neighboring East Coast cities have decided to raise their liberal noses up at the conservative South for their controversial heirlooms.

Their most recent target: the Confederate flag.

As a black man whose family origins are based in both the "Land of Lincoln" (Illinois) and the "Deep South" (Arkansas and Texas), I have had my own personal experiences with what has become a national symbol of hatred.

Once upon a time, I was the president of my high school's Future Farmers of America (FFA) chapter. I acted as a judge at dairy cow competitions (surprise) and competed in several contests while traveling to various Texas livestock shows and rodeos.

In some of the small rural counties I visited, seeing the Confederate flag placed on bumper stickers and flag poles felt eerie. But as I familiarized myself with the townspeople, they weren't as threatening as I assumed.

For them, that was the way they were raised. Consequently, it would be all they knew.

When I moved to Philly in 2010, I felt a similar eeriness when walking around South Street after a night of clubbing. This time, it wasn't Confederate flags that flew, but the hands of white cops that patted me down because I was in a "questionable area" at an "unusual" time.

Concert goers display a Confederate flag while tailgating at the Susquehanna Bank Center in Camden, New Jersey. / MARIA POUCHNIKOVA

Hypocrisy would rear its ugly head this week in the recent uproar after the famous Geno's Steaks removed a Confederate flag decal that was on a motorcycle made for the late owner, Joey Vento. It was located across the street from the shop.

Local resident Phil Dahl told the media that he made the complaint given the current national news associated with Sen. Lindsey Graham calling on South Carolina to remove the flag from its statehouse.

But where was the outrage before?

With all candor, it's easier to complain about what a godforsaken Southern flag is doing in Philly than address the wickedness behind it that clouds this nation overall.

Where are the protests demanding that we take down the Christopher Columbus Monument at Penn's Landing — a symbol of ruthless cultural genocide and supremacy? It's so easy for Philadelphians to treat the South like it's an embarrassing reminder of our nation's racist past when we ignore the current issues going on in our own backyard.

Philly is now just beginning to see the benefits of what decriminalizing marijuana has had on the disproportionate arrest rate of blacks in this city.

Let's not throw stones at Confederate flags while we're still symbolically living under a cracked Liberty Bell of misjudgment and bias.

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NY prison guard traded art supplies for snitching info

Inside job. Palmer is accused of bringing tools hidden inside frozen hamburger meat to the convicted killers.

Clinton Correctional Facility officer Gene Palmer / NEW YORK STATE POLICE

A guard charged in the upstate New York escape of two inmates said he allowed them into the prison's internal catwalks, which they later used to flee, in return for snitching on other inmates, according to court documents.

Corrections officer Gene Palmer said he also let inmates David Sweat and Richard Matt change electrical wiring so they could cook in their cells at Clinton Correctional Facility in Dannemora, New York.

Palmer's sworn deposition was posted in a New York Times story.

After the escape was discovered on June 6, officials said Matt, 49, and Sweat, 35, used the tools to break through their steel cell walls, scurry through the catwalks into a steam pipe and emerge from an outside manhole.

In the deposition, Palmer said he provided Matt, who painted portraits, with paints and brushes and helped hide them in the catwalk.

Palmer said he did "not intentionally" assist with the escape but bartered with Matt for "elaborate paintings and information on the illegal acts that inmates were committing."

Officials searched the forests of the Adirondack Mountains in the 20th day of the manhunt. The men were assumed to have weapons likely stolen from a cabin about 20 miles west of the prison, state police said.

Joyce Mitchell, 51, a worker in the prison's tailor shop charged with aiding the escape, allegedly hid the tools in the meat, said Clinton County District Attorney Andrew Wylie.

Palmer also is accused of trying to burn paintings he received, according to court documents. He is charged with tampering with evidence, introducing contraband into prison — both felonies — and misdemeanor misconduct for accepting the paintings, the documents showed.

Palmer's lawyer, Andrew Brockway, told CNN that Palmer would plead not guilty and was cooperating with authorities. Brockway did not immediately respond to a Reuters request for comment. REUTERS

Bail
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Palmer, 57, who was suspended with pay, was freed after posting $25,000 cash bail, the Clinton County Sheriff's Department said.

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*National Research Council. (2003) Elder mistreatment: Abuse, neglect and exploitation in an aging America. Washington, D.C.: The National Academies Press

US top court backs Obamacare, president says it's here to stay

Court decided. The law did not restrict the subsidies to states that establish their own online health insurance.

Supporters of the Affordable Care Act celebrate. / GETTY IMAGES

The U.S. Supreme Court on Thursday rejected a conservative legal challenge that could have doomed President Barack Obama's health care law, upholding nationwide tax subsidies crucial to his signature domestic policy achievement.

Obama strode into the White House Rose Garden after the ruling to declare that the law known as Obamacare is working, helping millions of Americans afford health insurance who otherwise would have none, and that it is "here to stay."

Chief Justice John Roberts, a conservative appointed by Republican President George W. Bush, wrote in the 6-3 ruling that Congress clearly intended for the tax subsidies that help millions of low- and moderate-income people afford private health insurance to be available in all 50 states.

"Congress passed the Affordable Care Act to improve health insurance markets, not to destroy them," Roberts wrote, adding that nationwide availability of the credits is required to "avoid the type of calamitous result that Congress plainly meant to avoid."

Roberts was joined by fellow conservative Justice Anthony Kennedy and the court's four liberal members in a ruling that may ensure Obamacare becomes a lasting element of the nation's social programs.

The ruling means the current system will remain in place, with subsidies available nationwide. If the challengers had won, at least 6.4 million people in at least 34 states would have lost subsidies worth an average of $272 per month. REUTERS

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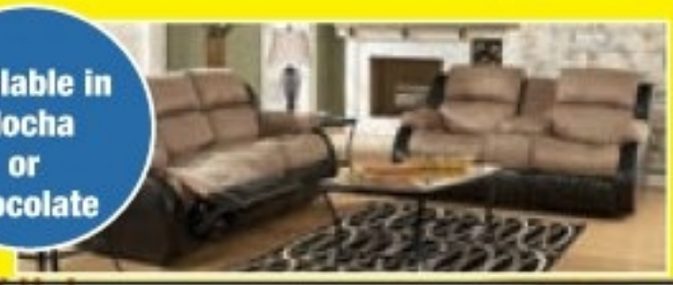

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Six things you need

1 NJ Gov. Christie to announce presidential bid Tuesday

Republican New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, who suffered in the polls after a politically motivated bridge traffic tie-up, will announce on Tuesday he is running for president, according to a source familiar with his plans.

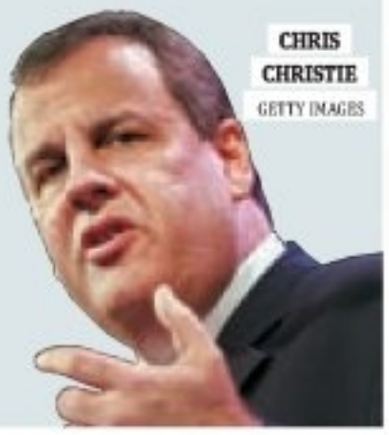
Christie will join more than a dozen other Republicans who have declared their intentions to seek the party's nomination for the November 2016 presidential election.

Christie, known for his brashness, has spent time in the past few months in the early voting states of New Hampshire and Iowa laying out policy proposals, including on the economy and national security.

Public radio station WNYC first reported Christie's planned announcement.

The 52-year-old Christie has been a controversial figure in New Jersey politics, seen as honest and plain spoken by supporters and a bully by detractors.

The controversy surrounding the 2013 George Washington Bridge lane closure fueled views that Christie relied on strong-arm politics to get his way. In May a former Christie ally pleaded guilty to federal charges related to the scandal, while two others were indicted. REUTERS



CHRIS CHRISTIE
GETTY IMAGES

2 Confederate flag debate reaches Congress

A growing backlash in Southern states against flying the Confederate battle flag spread to the U.S. Congress on Thursday when Democratic lawmakers aimed to remove the banner from parts of the Capitol, but it quickly ran into opposition in the Republican-controlled House of Representatives.

Representative Bennie Thompson of Mississippi sought House approval of a resolution requiring the removal of state flags containing any portion of the Civil War-era Confederate battle flag from the House side of the U.S. Capitol. REUTERS

3 Abercrombie settles claim with Justice Department

The U.S. Justice Department said it had reached an agreement with clothing retailer Abercrombie & Fitch on a discrimination claim involving the immigration status of a non-U.S. citizen.

The department said Ohio-based Abercrombie had required a woman to present documentation to verify her eligibility for employment in violation of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

Under the settlement, Abercrombie will pay the woman about $3,700 in back wages, establish a fund of $154,000 for any similar cases and pay a civil penalty. REUTERS

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to know today

Calif. wildfires force residents from towns

Residents of two California towns were under mandatory evacuation orders on Thursday due to a burgeoning wind-swept wildfire, while aircraft battling the massive blaze were grounded because of a drone craft in the area.

The fire in the mountains of San Bernardino County east of Los Angeles was among scores of wildfires raging along the West Coast, from Alaska through California, in areas grappling with drought emergencies and record-low snowpack.

Firefighters were losing ground to the long-burning San Bernardino County blaze, which swelled to 23,199 acres by Thursday in the face of gusting winds. REUTERS

Google starts road tests of self-driving car prototypes

Google said it had started testing the prototypes of its self-driving cars on Mountain View, California, roads, with safety drivers aboard.

The prototypes will join Google's Lexus cars, which use the same self-driving software, the company said in a blog post.

Although the prototypes are designed to work without a steering wheel or pedals, safety drivers will have a removable steering wheel, accelerator pedal and brake pedal during the tests. REUTERS

Sky for fireworks, not drones, at Boston July 4 concert: Police

Massachusetts State Police said that no drones would be allowed at next week's Fourth of July Fireworks Spectacular, which draws hundreds of thousands of spectators to Boston's Charles River waterfront.

"No private drones here," State Police Colonel Tim Alben told reporters. "There won't be government drones here. There won't be any drones at all and the FAA takes this quite seriously."

The small aerial vehicles, often equipped with cameras, have become popular with hobbyists and amateur filmmakers but pose a risk of crashes. REUTERS

Wicked pissah.
'Masshole' added to the Oxford Dictionary

A couple of prime examples. /FILE PHOTO

Massholes from Boston have never received the proper credit they deserve.

The term "Masshole" was added to the Oxford English Dictionary, which they can all agree is wicked pissah. They also added "hot mess" and "fo' shizzle," which is far less pissah.

They define Masshole as a noun meaning "contemptuous term for a native or inhabitant of the state of Massachusetts." What they fail to grasp is that this is a point of pride and they can go sit in gravy in the Irish Riviera.

Should you find yourself in the Bay State and someone calls you a Masshole, you can tell them it's in the dictionary, and they're a chowdahead who goes bowling with the bigger balls and drinks milkshakes. Whatever those are. **NATE HOMAN**

Words for next year

The Oxford English Dictionary recently added "meh," "twerk" and "selfie" to its compendium of words in the English language. Here are some suggestions for next year.

- **On Fleek:** A state of perfection. Used to describe something that is well done or particularly great.
- **Yas:** A variation of "yes" used to give affirmation, show support
- **Bae:** A term of endearment often used for a person one has a romantic and/or sexual relationship with.
- **Turnt:** Used to describe a state of being, often interchangeable with "drunk," "high" or "f—up."
- **Fuccboi:** A person, often a young man, who dresses in a ultra-trendy or fashionable way. Fuccbois are often compared to Kanye West. **MATT LEE, METRO**

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Mark Wahlberg reunites with Seth MacFarlane's living teddy bear in "Ted 2."
UNIVERSAL PICTURES

THE FUN STARTS HERE

Marky Mark's wknd 'Ted' talk

Mark Wahlberg doesn't care that you want sequels to his movies.

MATT PRIGGE
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matt.prigge@metro.us

Mark Wahlberg doesn't do sequels. For years there's been talk of a second "Italian Job," a second "Four Brothers," even a follow-up to "The Fighter" that follows other boxers. But so far nothing has materialized, in part because he's picky.

"When people talk about sequels I always just shrug it off," Wahlberg tells us. "If they develop a script I'll take a look at it. I always want to do something different and change the dynamic."

And yet here's "Ted 2," his first sequel and a fairly different film than 2011's "Ted," in which he played the owner/friend of a magically sentient talking bear, voiced by co-writer/director Seth MacFarlane.

"It was only worth doing it if we could make it better than the first. It had to be its own thing," says Wahlberg.

Part of that had to do with getting another chance to work and hang with MacFarlane. "Seth and I really have a lot in common. We have a knowledge of old, old television from the '70s and '80s," he explains.

That's one reason they're comfortable together onscreen, though they're not as ad-lib-heavy as it may seem. "We play around a lot. But the writers are so good you don't need to improv so much. You might find yourself in a scene where you need to interject life into it. But it's not as necessary as it is in other situations."

MacFarlane's reputation for shocking people is very much in play in "Ted 2," which includes race and gay jokes, plus one about Charlie Hebdo. Wahlberg doesn't really think about those offending when shooting.

"It's one of those things where we shoot it, put it in front of an audience and see how people respond," he says. "He doesn't like to be censored, to be sure."

Wahlberg doesn't even get shaken by the "Ted" films' most challenging aspect: believably conversing with a CGI talking teddy bear. MacFarlane riffs with Wahlberg from behind the camera while his co-star pretends he's talking to what will later be a special effect.

"I feel like he's real. And if I believe it, I feel I can convince an audience," he says of his methodology. "That's the only thing I want to do: I want to make it real. We want to make it look real — not make a joke of it and wink at the audience."

Wahlberg has confessed that he's watched MacFarlane's "Family Guy" with at least some of his four kids, none of them over 11, but films like these are verboten.

"My wife would kill me," he tells us. "The only thing I showed my sons was the fight scene from the first one, but with no sound."

GETTY IMAGES

A darker kind of funny

The concept of Mark Wahlberg as a comedic actor shouldn't be too odd by now. Though he wasn't in full-blown comedies until "The Other Guys," with Will Ferrell, and "Date Night," he played amusingly oblivious in "I Heart Huckabees" and stole every scene he had as a cocky insult machine in "The Departed." He's reunited with that film's foul-mouthed screenwriter, William Monahan, twice, including last year's deeply sarcastic "The Gambler" and a small part in his upcoming film "Mojave."

"His scripts just speak to my own sense of humor, the way I look at stuff," Wahlberg says of Monahan's work. "I just love the rhythm of his writing. He gets me."

'Max'

Director: Boaz Yakin
Stars: Josh Wiggins, Thomas Haden Church
Rating: PG

●●○○○

Even before its credits, "Max" offers a title card explaining that dogs have played a part in war for at least a century. It's as if the filmmakers are assuring us that, no, really, a movie about a marine dog is totally legit, and Hollywood isn't scraping the bottom of the barrel to find something patriotic to peddle to the red state masses. The sheer weirdness of "Max" makes it far easier to deal with than blandly jingoistic fare like "Act of Valor." If the movies must occasionally turn flag-waving, may more of them feature a Belgian Malinois busting an arms ring.

That is indeed the plot of "Max," which starts with the mutt sniffing out terrorists in Kandahar before relocating to Texas (of course), where he's cared by a family with a troubled teen son. (Or, well, he sells illegal video games.) "Max" is less a canine "American Sniper" than an '80s boy adventure film, and even sometimes the BMX movie "Rad." Like that era's comedies, it too features a dopey crime subplot, this one involving a former marine-turned-baddie (Luke Kleintank), who's trying to sell stolen weapons to a Mexican cartel.

This dog can sniff out terrorists and also bust cartels. Look out. WARNER BROS. PICTURES

Eventually the film finds a drunken balance between patriotic drama and hard-PG thriller. It also wants to kowtow to Bible Belt audiences, but it has no clue how to depict them except as stereotypes. Sometimes things get lost in translation. A July 4 parade gets a marching band doing up "Tubthumping" — a British ode to barhopping by Marxists. The most tragic part is wasting Lauren Graham as the mom, who cries when she overcooks roast beef and seems to always be doing dishes. MP

'Ted 2' just wants to shock you

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In "Ted 2," the sentient teddy bear (voice of Seth MacFarlane) finds himself caught in a legal battle to prove his personhood.

The lowdown: "Ted 2" has a Charlie Hebdo joke. Of course it does, because it's by Seth MacFarlane. For the record, it's not just an offensive gag about a tragic event that's still pretty raw. It's not even really a joke about Charlie Hebdo. Its only purpose is to shock. But more than others of its kind, this joke — and many of the other tasteless and/or un-PC yuks in "Ted 2" — is truly up front only about riling feathers and nothing else. There are race jokes, gay panic jokes and, perhaps less jarringly, jokes about Amanda Seyfried's large eyes. And most if not all of them exist solely to raise eyebrows and break monocles. They're almost good-natured, even sweet, in their sometimes messed-up way.

"Ted 2," starring Seth MacFarlane as the voice of a sentient teddy bear and Mark Wahlberg, is a touch sillier than the first. UNIVERSAL PICTURES

Also worth noting: better these than, say, a set piece involving a stockroom of sperm and a slippery floor. Indeed, "Ted 2" — like much of MacFarlane's work — is extremely hit-or-miss, throwing out gags that are by turns creative, loopy and far too easy. A thumb-twiddling set piece can be mostly forgiven if it's preceded by the MacFarlane-voiced sentient teddy bear launching into a brief, impromptu rendition of "Tiny Dancer" for the thinnest possible reason.

But most of the jokes make you want to break your monocle — an agenda that also extends to the main plot. In his quest to prove he is if not human then a sentient being worthy of rights, Ted routinely likens himself to minorities as well as slaves. It's very open about just trying to drop jaws by going there about race, and in between jokes about black penises. It knows what it's doing, and what it's doing is reducing shock jokes to their most base element. It arrives in a climate sick with touchiness, and though it doesn't make that explicitly its subject, you can sense a comic trying to use jokes to chill people out. Some of them are even funny.

'Ted 2'

Director: Seth MacFarlane
Stars: Mark Wahlberg, Seth MacFarlane (voice)
Rating: R

●●●●●

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'The Third Man'

Director: Carol Reed
Stars: Joseph Cotton, Alida Valli
Rating: NR

• • • • •

Carol Reed's 1949 thriller has been revived and cleaned up countless times, but the latest scrubbing allegedly goes too far. The images, purists say, are digitized to the point where it all looks unreal — not a great turn for one of the most ostentatiously visual of thrillers, which cakes a broken, postwar Vienna in engulfing shadows and disorienting, canted angles.

Still, even a grungy, cheapo VHS — how this writer first saw it — can't destroy the embarrassment of other riches. You can enjoy it as pure plot, with naive American Holly Martins (Joseph Cotten) trying to find out who killed his friend. The reveal is second to "Psycho" as one of the most open movie twists, and knowing what's coming allows you to root around in its evocation of a world undone by war. The people are as broken as the city's statuary, and don't take kindly to a foreigner trying to impose his own form of order.

Joseph Cotten stands about in a typically unusual camera angle in 1949's "The Third Man." RIALTO PICTURES

Indeed, "The Third Man" is best read not as an homage to Hitchcock — or to supersecret guest star Orson Welles — but as a study of what Carol Reed biographer Robert F. Moss describes as "the ineffectuality of goodness." Our hero is a man of simple morality — the writer of dimestore Westerns — who tries to do good no matter what. But doing the good is rarely simple. The hero wins, but it's the unrepentant villain, a charisma machine given no redeeming values, who steals the movie with all of 10 total minutes of screen time. MP

'The Overnight'

Director: Patrick Brice
Stars: Taylor Schilling, Adam Scott
Rating: R

• • • • •

You might think you know where "The Overnight" is going. A normal married couple — Emily and Alex (Taylor Schilling and Adam Scott) — spends an evening with Kurt and Charlotte (Jason Schwartzman and Judith Godreche), a weirdo married couple. They are thus primed to learn a valuable lesson in conformity and not straying from prescribed norms. But that's not what happens in "The Overnight." Instead, Patrick Brice's four-actor chamber comedy not only goes in a different direction entirely but entertains the possibility that its leads might be freakier than they realize.

Adam Scott and Jason Schwartzman play neighbors getting close in "The Overnight." THE ORCHARD

"The Overnight" shills for the progressive life but without forgetting to be funny. There's a midfilm set piece involving a certain dance designed to encourage theaterwide howls. But the sequence doesn't do what most films like it do and crawl back at the end to a more comfortable position. Here's a sometimes dirty comedy that sincerely and wittily explores the anxieties that involve adopting outre lifestyle choices. MP

'Heaven Knows What' is a rare unflinching drug addict drama

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matt.prigge@metro.us

It's safe to say few drug movies have ever been as nonjudgmental as "Heaven Knows What," a rough and tumble indie whose cameras push in perilously close to a batch of young heroin addicts roaming the streets of New York City. It's not pro-drug per se, but it does get them, and it gets, better than most films, that being hooked on dope is a lifestyle and, in a sense, a job. There's almost no shooting up in the film, but its characters, even when they're straight, live in a constant state of hyperagitation. Harley, its lead character, doesn't walk; she barrels, eyes bulging, emotions flaring. Even when she's quiet she's on edge.

Harley herself is partly real; she's played by Arielle Holmes, a former addict spotted on the subway by filmmakers Ben and Joshua Safdie, and convinced to write her memoirs. Remarkably, the Safdies neither glamorize nor demonize what she's doing. "Heaven Knows What" can't be reduced to an anti-drug ad, as many drug movies are, in part because the drug use is scarce, in part because there's a detachment, even a faint darkly comic edge. The Safdies, for the most part, stay away from fireworks, capturing addiction as a way of life, not as a way definitely toward death. It's the rare drug movie that doesn't makes the life look attractive or hellish but simply shows it.

Caleb Landry Jones and Arielle Holmes play addicts in love in Ben and Joshua Safdie's "Heaven Knows What." RADIUS-TWC

'Heaven Knows What'

Directors: Ben and Joshua Safdie
Stars: Arielle Holmes, Caleb Landry Jones
Rating: R

• • • • •

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Get ready for your robot butler

AMC's new "Humans" examines what it would actually be like to have artificial intelligence helping you out at home.

LISA WEIDENFELD
@LisaWeidenfeld
lisa.weidenfeld@metro.us

Watch "Humans" Sunday at 9 p.m. on AMC. COLIN HUTTON, AMC

Chances are you've seen William Hurt in something. Whether you loved him in "The Big Chill" or "Into the Wild," the man has made his mark on cinema. Now he's taking his talents to the small screen with a starring role on "Humans." The show takes place in a near-future Britain (Hurt is the only American) where people can buy lifelike, green-eyed "synths" to help them with their day-to-day lives. Getting a robot to wash your dishes for you sounds pretty nice, but the series also questions the bigger issues that would be involved with artificial intelligence this advanced.

That's part of what drew Hurt to the project. "The whole series is a blizzard of those questions, you know? What does it mean to those of us who have to live the life of an ordinary day?" he says. He also says the series explores the "quiet tragedies that will happen when truckers can't drive trucks anymore, because trucks are driving themselves. They're going to put three million truckers out of work and that's how their families make a living."

While there have been countless investigations into what artificial intelligence would mean (and Hurt says he's a big Isaac Asimov fan), he's enjoying that this series takes a look at the economics of artificial intelligence. "Industry has always done this. It's always invented things that cash in on the very lives, the very fabric of the lives of the people who did those functions before. And history tends to forget those people because it's so excited about invention and progress. The people who actually pay for progress are the people you never hear about."

Synths are shown cleaning hallways, picking produce and acting as home health aides, which turns into a problem for Hurt's George, who's given a bossy home health care worker he doesn't want. He's got his own old-school synth that's slowly falling apart, but he's using it to help him store memories of his late wife.

"Philosophically, he lives on the boundary, and I think that's the most important place to live," says Hurt. George was involved with the development of the synths, but backed out because he didn't think the machines should be given sentience. "He made a decision to be a human being and love his wife. Then George runs into the problems of life. He runs into a brain fritz and loses a big chunk of his memory, which Odi [his synth] then carries for him. Odi is his son, anthropomorphized."

Robot friends

It's George's sympathy for the synths that sets him apart from the way most people on the show react to them. "Some would say that's a dowdy old guy who lives in a dowdy old house who can't take care of himself, but hidden in that house is a treasure," as Hurt puts it, describing George's gentle relationship with Odi. "When the sentients walk into that house, they find a non-judgmental treasure that wants them to grow into what they can be, rather than see them as a threat automatically."

GETTY IMAGES

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Soak up the rays with Ingrid Michaelson

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The singer is a big fan of outdoor concerts.

LISA WEIDENFELD
@LisaWeidenfeld
lisa.weidenfeld@metro.us

Ingrid Michaelson can't wait to get outside. She's embarking on a special Summer Night Out tour, playing plenty of outdoor venues, before focusing on her next album. "I wanted to do a big, blowout tour for the record because after June, I'm going to hunker down and finish my next record, which is coming out next year. So I wanted to do a big send-off," Michaelson explains.

Of course, playing outside does come with its own set of challenges. "If the weather's bad, it changes dramatically," she says. "We've had some crazy weather. I've had bugs fly into my face. You can't really recover from that gracefully. We've had rain that's coming almost directly horizontally at us, and all of our gear is wet, and we're just like, 'This cannot be safe.' But I'm hoping that that's not going to happen."

Open air adventures

Aside from the occasional insect-related issue ("One time, there was this gigantic bee that flew into my face. I just screamed. It was very unladylike," Michaelson shares with a laugh), being outdoors for a show is just as fun for the performers as it is for the audience.

"It's really beautiful," Michaelson says. "There's something kind of perfect about playing outside. It's very freeing. There's no walls, so you don't feel caged. It's just very open."

And for her next act

As to that new album, Michaelson says she's keeping it collaborative,

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Sadly, Rainn Wilson isn't joining the tour, but you can still see Michaelson play "Time Machine." GETTY IMAGES

much like she did with last year's "Lights Out." "I had such a great time writing the last record," she says. "Not that I want to emulate that exactly, because you can't ever do that, but I just had such a great experience that I came back to it. And I'm working with more writers."

While Michaelson's music is filling bigger stages, she says she's still focused on giving her fans an intimate experience. "While we are stepping things up, and it is going to be a bigger sound and a bigger production in general, I do want to have the moments where it feels like just me onstage with the audience because that's really the way I got my start, just me and an audience. So it's important for me to keep that feeling," she says.

"It's very possible. If you have the right rapport and the right audience, you can make anything feel like you're in a living room."

Comedic co-stars

Michaelson's video for "Time Machine" has been a hit, no doubt because it featured a series of comedians, including Rainn Wilson and Donald Faison, getting in Michaelson's way while she tried to sing. "I had this idea of having all these male comedians upstaging me. And my manager and I have a connection to Rainn Wilson's company, Soul Pancake, and we pitched them to help out," she says. "Rainn helped me to get a lot of people, and it just kind of came together. It was a very fun video to do."

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Letters to the editor

Lara Croft is a hero

Re: 'This year's E3 treated women right' (Metro, June 25) Has blogger Jenna Busch ever heard of "self-fulfilling prophecy?" The more she looks for misogynistic ideals in video games the more she will find them, even if they aren't there. She's wrong for labeling Tomb Raider "torture porn." Tomb Raider is a story of survival. Lara Croft survives plane crashes, jumping off of cliff faces, sliding down mountain sides and getting shot at! It would take away from the game itself to have an invincible character. The pain and strife Lara goes through to battle the wilderness, conquer her enemies and get out alive can only be described as heroic. It's easy to be cynical and call it "torture porn," but then it makes one wonder if she has even played the game before forming her opinion.

MATT M., VIA EMAIL

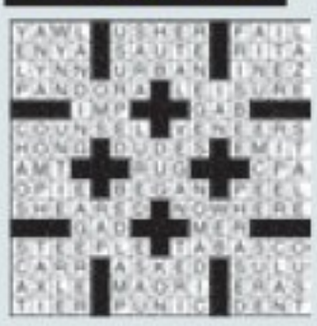
A less meaty Fourth

Nearly 240 years ago, our founding fathers declared our independence from Great Britain. This Fourth of July, let's declare our independence from the meat industry.

More than 60 percent of U.S. agricultural subsidies pay for meat, dairy and egg production. Fresh fruit and vegetable farmers receive less than one percent of the total. It's time to declare our independence by stopping these subsidies.

BERNARD JACOBSEN

Thursday's answer

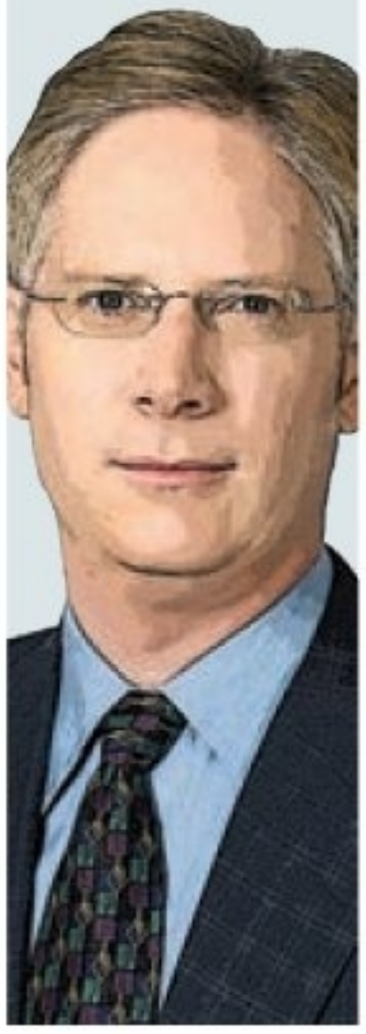


IT'S CAPTURE THE FLAG TIME

Opinion

TOM FOREMAN

CNN CORRESPONDENT AND AUTHOR OF THE UPCOMING BOOK "MY YEAR OF RUNNING DANGEROUSLY: A DAD, A DAUGHTER, AND A RIDICULOUS PLAN."



Every few years as elections loom, the DC political crowd rediscovers an exotic world on the other side of the Potomac filled with wonders like female voters, minorities, people earning the minimum wage and Iowa. This week brought the revelation that in this far-off land called America, there are folks who display the Confederate flag.

I admit that some politicos, especially at the state and local level, have noted and objected to the flag in the past. But in practical terms, two weeks ago not a soul — Democratic, Republican or otherwise — was making a serious fuss over this issue in national politics. They were content to let the flags fly, heedless of anyone who might find that offensive. Now they're falling over each other to call it an outrage and shout that the banners must go.

And it is going … fast. Big corporations like Wal-Mart are shunning sales of Confederate flags. Towns are considering ripping them down, and maybe even carting away statues of Confederate heroes. Meanwhile, those same politicos who were saying nothing just days ago are now crowing about equality, justice and sensitivity as if they've been neck deep in this fight for years.

But the moves to strike this flag are not the result of political bravery. This is happening because the horrific killings in Charleston stirred legions of normal voters to push for change, and only when the attack was well underway (and victory looked probable) did all those DC players start elbowing their way to the battlefront.

Furthermore, they attacked only a symbol that was already under heavy siege – not the root causes that make that symbol troublesome. You could argue that a great many of them actually exhibited not courage but rather crass political opportunism.

So as the election season warms, when they invite us to applaud their strong character, maybe it would be good if we sat on our hands for a while, if only to remind them that we know the difference between waging the battle and showing up just in time to pose with the captured flag.

CNN=POLITICS

Sudoku: Easy and hard

		3				1	8	
2	4	6	3				5	
		1	9					6
			5			9		1
			1		4			
4		5			3			
1					7	3		
	9				1	6	7	4
	8	7				2		

	2					7		3
				6			1	2
		4		2	3	6	8	5
				9		8		
			2	8	4			
		7		3				
9	7	2	8	1		3		
4	5			7				
6		1					2	

How to play
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Horoscope

Cancer | June 21-July 22 You have faced your share of pitfalls. A positive attitude, however, will get you back on track and lead to success. Pessimism breeds discontent.

Leo | July 23-Aug. 22 Keep your thoughts hidden. Listening to negative comments will sour your mood. Find a solitary activity that keeps you busy and away from interference. Let others do as they please.

Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Don't feel guilty about events you cannot control. Do the best with what you have, and don't let thoughts of what might have been play on your mind.

Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22 Make the most of your social network. To improve your position in the workplace, let others know your goals. Word of mouth is still a valuable option when exploring opportunities.

Scorpio |Oct. 23-Nov. 21 You will blow an altercation out of proportion. Review the facts and you will see that you overreacted. Apologies may be necessary if you have spoken in haste.

Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Listen and observe. Don't let anyone else's opinion keep you from doing what is best for you. Put your attributes on the line and go after your goals.

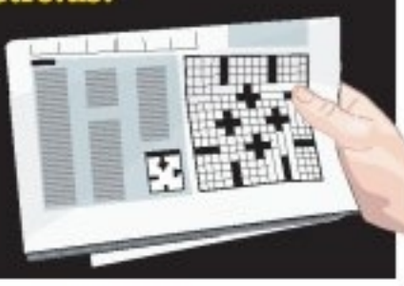
Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan. 20 You will gain satisfaction through involvement in a worthy cause. Your sense of fair play will be a valuable asset to a charitable organization.

Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb. 18 Your health should be your primary interest. You can't keep up a hectic pace for long stretches of time. Make sure that you get adequate rest and don't overextend yourself.

Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20 There will be many demands placed upon you. Let others know about the limitations of your schedule. It's OK to say no if you have too much to do.

Visit us online at Metro.us.

Use your smartphone to find today's crossword answers! Download and open the Blippar app on your smartphone and hold the screen over the puzzle.



Aries | March 21-April 20 Determination will be required if you are facing partnership issues. Be prepared to make adjustments. Find out what your opponent has in store before you engage in battle.

Taurus | April 21-May 21 Compromise is not necessarily a bad thing. Being sensitive to the needs of others sometimes means putting your own priorities aside for a time. The rewards for your mindfulness will be worthwhile.

Gemini | May 22-June 20 Put a creative spin on any task you take on. Don't dwell on past disappointments. If you face the day with optimism, you will be happy. EUGENIA LAST

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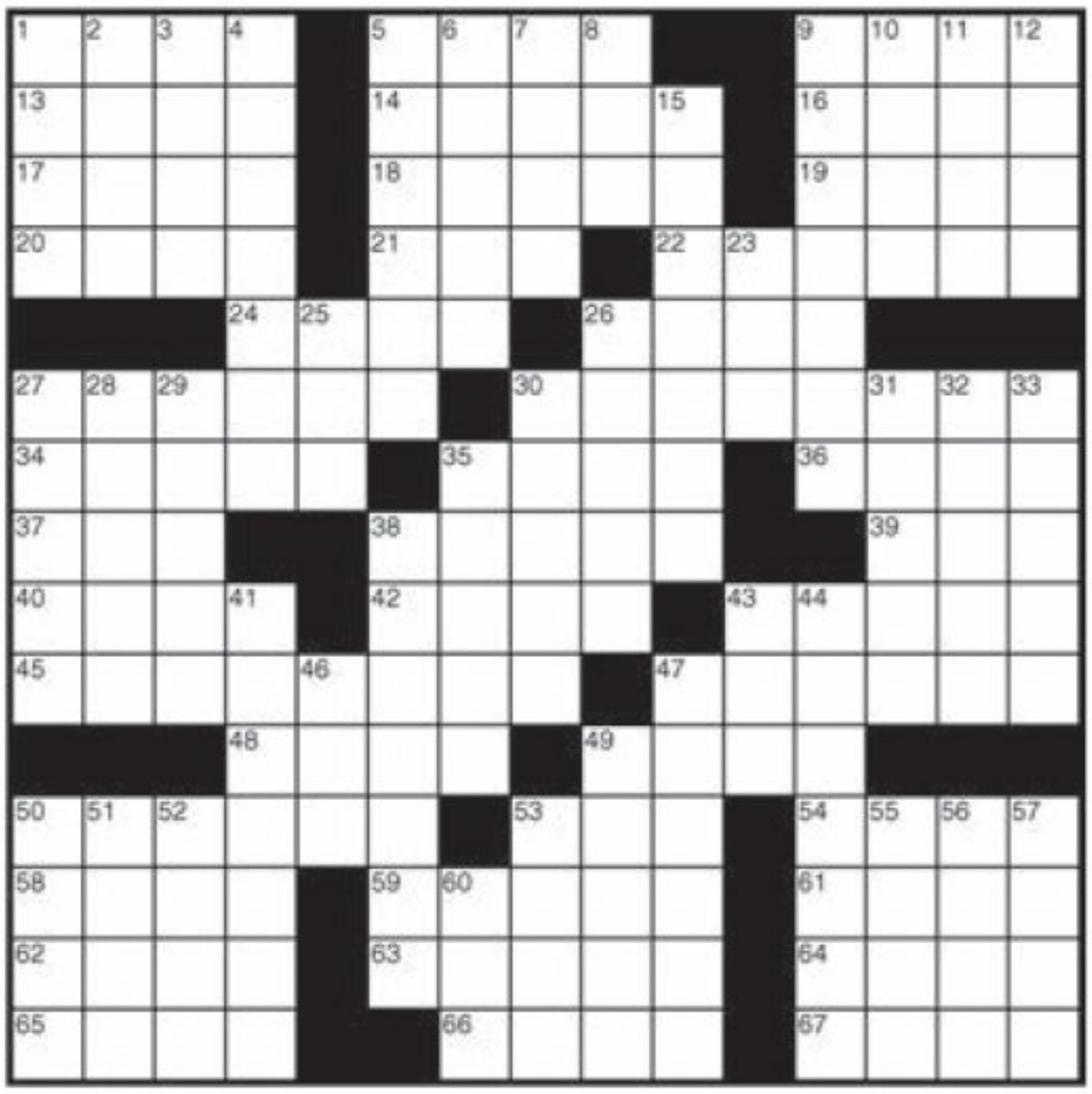

Across

1 Crackerjack
5 Jason's vessel
9 Small town
13 Bronte's Jane
14 Asian capital
16 Fifi's friend
17 Hot-tub locales
18 Ms. LaBelle
19 Humane org.
20 Backpacker's load
21 I, to Wolfgang
22 Mouth, slangily
24 Yen
26 Late-night Jay
27 Directs elsewhere
30 Devises
34 Atlanta university
35 Sheet of stamps
36 Wield a hammer
37 — Solo and Chewbacca
38 Ached for
39 Lao-Tzu's "way"
40 Met role
42 Lascivious glance
43 Turns sharply
45 Chatterboxes
47 Ms. Fawcett
48 Lemons
49 Wee parasite
50 Rectangular
53 Bit of paint
54 Fireside activity
58 Pickling ingredient
59 Avoid capture
61 Bedtime story
62 Descartes' name
63 Kind of panel
64 Constantly
65 Trumpeter, for one
66 Donations
67 Regard as

Down

1 It once was wild
2 Extreme PR
3 Where to hear Farsi
4 Livelier
5 Tomato jellies
6 Scope
7 Early Teuton
8 Loophole
9 Band instrument
10 Refs
11 Saki grain
12 Duffel filler
15 Compared
23 Financial mag
25 Experiment with
26 Individualist
27 Fix up
28 PC message
29 "Klute" star
30 Raspberry stems
31 Provide food and drink
32 Glittering adornment
33 Spill over
35 Jetties
38 Sorority candidates
41 Belly
43 Wine cask
44 Put up
46 Cinnamon goody
47 Nerve cells
49 Lady's title
50 Boathouse items
51 Spouted, as a whale
52 Moon goddess
53 Tedious
55 Come down with
56 Helm position
57 Technical word
60 Mauna —

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SPORTS

Wise Owls

Temple extends Rhule

Temple seems to have found a long-term solution atop their football program as they extended Matt Rhule's contract through 2021. Rhule succeeded Steve Addazio as head coach in 2012. The former Giants coach found success last season by leading the team to a 6-6 record and becoming bowl-eligible.

Sixers triple down on size, take Okafor with third pick

NBA Draft. The Sixers, after missing out on their point guard of the future, added another big man Thursday night.

For the second year in a row, the 76ers had the third overall pick in the NBA Draft. And for the second time, they were unable to draft their top choice.

The Lakers shocked many, particularly Sixers fans when they took Ohio State point guard D'Angelo Russell instead of Jahlil Okafor ahead of Philly at No. 2.

Which made Okafor fall right into Philly 's lap. Along with Joel Embiid (whose status could be worse than we thought after yet another seven-footer was taken) and Nerlens Noel, the Sixers now boast a young trio of bigs with sky-high potential.

The 76ers have no lack of depth in the size department now. / GETTY IMAGES

The picks

1. Karl-Anthony Towns, C, Kentucky to the Timberwolves
2. D'Angelo Russell, PG, Ohio State to the Lakers
3. Jahlil Okafor, C, Duke to the Sixers
4. Kristaps Porzingis, C, Latvia to the Knicks
5. Mario Hezonja, SF, Croatia to the Magic

"I am excited," Okafor, a Duke product, said minutes after being drafted. "It's been my dream my entire life."

Adrian Wojnarowski, Yahoo's basketball savant confirmed that Sixers GM Sam Hinkie intends to keep all three big men (for now at least).

The Timberwolves picked a perfect player for Hall of Fame center Kevin Garnett to mentor in Karl-Anthony Towns. Minnesota used its first-ever No. 1 overall pick on the Kentucky one-and-done product to open the festivities Thursday night.

The Knicks at No. 4 took another seven-footer (to the sound of echoing boos in Brooklyn) in Kristaps Porzingis from Latvia.

A second player from Eastern Europe rounded out the top five as the Magic picked up the 6-foot-8 wingman Mario Hezonja.

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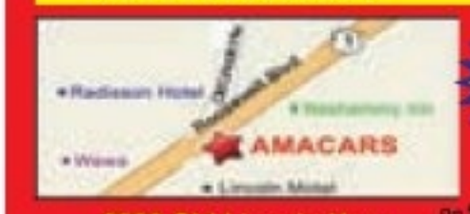

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Next woman up for USA

World Cup. The U.S. women will look to beat China on Friday without two of their top players.

In order to reach the top of the soccer world once again, the U.S. women's soccer team will need to go through a familiar opponent from their glory days.

The United States has reached the quarterfinals in all seven World Cups and it'll look to advance to the semifinals on Friday (7:30 p.m., Fox) as it takes on China in Ottawa. The winner will face either Germany or France (who play at 4 p.m. on Friday) next Tuesday at Montreal's Olympic Stadium (the former home of the Expos).

To this day, the most famous American women's team sporting event ever has to be that epic 1999 World Cup Final where the U.S. beat China, 5-4, in penalty kicks at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California, in front of 90,185 people.

This year's Chinese team has reached this stage after going 1-1-1 in Group A (coming in second-place behind host Canada) and by earning a 1-0 win over Cameroon on Saturday in Edmonton in the round-of-16.

The U.S., meanwhile, went 2-0-1 to capture the rugged Group D and it outlasted Colombia, 2-0, on Monday in Edmonton. As usual at this point, goals figure to be hard to come by. Toss in the fact that China has scored just four times in its four matches and the U.S. has scored just six times in its four matches and there's even more reason to believe that this one won't get wild.

The United States will be heavily favored to progress, but it won't be easy without their two best midfielders. Megan Rapinoe and Lauren Holiday are both suspended for one game after each picked up second yellow cards in the tournament.

U.S. head coach Jill Ellis gave a hint as to who will start for Rapinoe and Holliday as midfielder Morgan Brian and forward Christen Press were both used as second-half substitutes in the win over Colombia. That would require a formation change, so if Ellis wants to keep the same shape then perhaps she'll go with veteran midfielder Heather O'Reilly, who has yet to see the field in Canada.

"I know that the players that come in [for suspended players] will be confident of stepping in and doing well," explained Ellis. "I have the utmost confidence in all the players that we have."

On Friday, the Americans figure to lean on stars like Alex Morgan, who scored the first goal against Colombia (her first in Canada), midfielder Carli Lloyd (who clinched it by scoring the second goal on a penalty kick), and goalkeeper Hope Solo (who has rarely been tested since the opening match vs. Australia).

RICH SLATE
@RichSlate
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By the numbers

6

Hope Solo has six big saves this World Cup, and is coming fresh off a shutout of Colombia in USA's last game.

The U.S. will be without Megan Rapinoe against China on Friday. GETTY IMAGES

Round of 8

Here's how the Round of 8 pans out for the weekend:

- Top-ranked Germany takes on No. 3 France for what will be a sensational first match on Friday afternoon.
- The United States catches a break by facing China Friday night, instead of a tougher matchup against Germany or France. The U.S. is unbeaten against China in 24 straight games since 2003.
- Australia will have to play as underdogs again when it takes on Japan Saturday. The Aussies took down Brazil in the round of 16.
- Canada will continue to have the home-field advantage in Vancouver as they host England. The English will provide a tougher task for Canada, which squeaked by Switzerland on Sunday.

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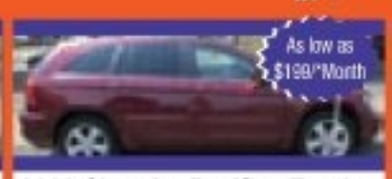
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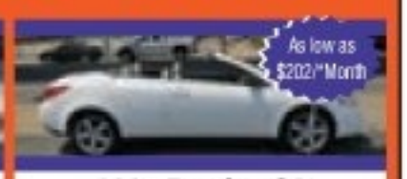
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Union look to continue turnaround vs. Impact

MLS. The Union seem to hold their own against the best in the MLS, and look to build off of Wednesday's win against Seattle.

The Union and Impact kick off at 7 p.m. Saturday on 6ABC. / GETTY IMAGES

The Union bounced back from a devastating loss in L.A. Saturday by defeating a brittle Seattle Sounders squad Wednesday night. After returning to their winning ways, the team now looks to do the same when the Montreal Impact come to town, with a playoff push in mind.

The Impact return to PPL Park Saturday where they have not found much success in the past. The Union owned Montreal during their last meeting in front of their home crowd last August by a score of 2-1.

Jim Curtin's team is two points out of the top six teams in the Eastern Conference that will qualify for the MLS playoffs in late September.

The Union are experiencing a bit of an inconsistent season, but still remain in the hunt. Despite streaky wins and losses through 18 games, with its performance Wednesday the team has proven it can take down the league's premier teams.

The Sounders are still atop the Western Conference standings, so that should remain an impressive win for the Union. Not to mention, the team has taken down other top-notch teams in DC, New York and Columbus — all of which are ahead of them in the standings.

Although it's still fairly early in the season, the amount of games are starting to pile up as teams are starting to match each other and play more often.

Case in point for the Impact who will, well … be impacted by the remaining schedule. Montreal faces Wednesday and Saturday games for a solid stretch the rest of the season. That creates an advantage for the Union, who are looking for a hot streak against tired teams.

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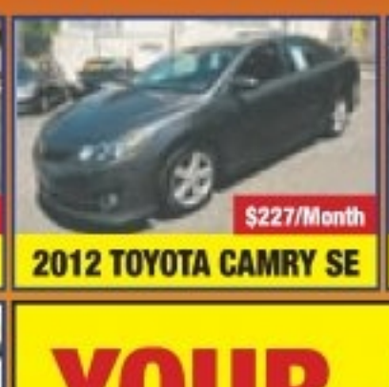

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Phillies' future

Turning away from the tough-to-watch present-day Philadelphia Phillies, it may be refreshing to see the future.

- The Phillies' top two prospects, Aaron Nola and J.P. Crawford, got the call recently to represent the organization at the Futures Game in Cincinnati on Sunday, July 12, at 3 p.m.
- The game will take place during the afternoon before the Home Run Derby and will showcase to the world the top young talent in the farm systems of major league teams.
- The game will mark the second-straight appearance for Crawford, who recorded a single, stolen base and run scored in the 2014 game.
- Nola has climbed the ranks of the minors after being drafted 13 months ago, and was chosen for the game for his overall 9-3 record and 1.91 ERA this season.

Can Maikel Franco keep up his red-hot play as July arrives? / GETTY IMAGES

Phils look to end June on high note

MLB. The Phillies took some chances and drafted relatives of familiar faces with their 2015 draft haul.

Professional debut

More good news from the farm for the Phillies as first-round pick Cornelius Randolph, taken in this month's draft, made his minor league debut Thursday.

- In his first professional at-bat, Randolph went 3-3 with a triple and an RBI for the team's Gulf Coast League affiliate.

The forecast for this upcoming weekend in South Philadelphia is for lower temperatures and a high chance of showers and thunderstorms. In other words, a pretty messy time, much like the month of June for the Phillies.

At 7-15 with five games remaining, June is a month many of the players and coaching staff will shut out of their heads. Through the 22 games, the Phils pitching staff has posted an MLB-worst 5.63 ERA while allowing the most hits at 241. Opposing teams are batting .295 against.

And to make matters worse, the first-place Washington Nationals are coming to town.

Heading into Thursday, the Nats are on a five-game winning streak behind their legion of arms. The pitching staff has turned it on during the last few days of this month, most notably Max Scherzer.

The former Cy Young winner is coming off of a no-hitter last Saturday against the Pirates, which contributed to his ongoing success in his first year playing in the nation's capital. Scherzer is 8-5 on the season with a 1.76 ERA.

The Phillies lineup must not be looking forward to that, considering the righty is 3-1 with a 2.25 ERA for his career against the team. Another factor to consider is that the lineup is hitting a deplorable .236 at Citizens Bank Park during this woeful month.

If the Phils figure out Scherzer Friday night, things won't get any easier in the remaining two games. Washington's probable starters are Stephen Strasburg and Gio Gonzalez, who will finish out the final weekend series of June.

Hopefully, the month of July will be more successful. Maybe not on the field but within the front office, as the rumors continue to swirl about Cole Hamels and Jonathon Papelbon with the trade deadline drawing closer and closer.

Who knows, maybe the hot bat of Maikel Franco could possibly swing this upcoming series in favor of the Phillies and put a positive spin on the remaining days of the month.

Anything of that sort will help, especially because the memory of June will be of bad pitching and a waving of a white flag.

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4 Most likely landing spots for Phillies ace Hamels

MLB. With rumors swirling, which uniform will Cole Hamels be wearing at season's end?

It's just over a month until the MLB trade deadline arrives. The Phillies will make some trades. Aaron Harang is almost a certainty to be dealt. Expect Ryan Howard to remain. But what about Cole Hamels? Where will King Cole be August 1? Metro has four possible destinations for the Phillies ace.

ED CONDRAN
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Hamels looked shaky in his most recent outing Wednesday, allowing five runs in five frames against the Yankees. / GETTY IMAGES

1 Dodgers

According to the New York Post's Joel Sherman, the Dodgers had a lead scout out at Yankee Stadium Wednesday to check out Hamels. The Dodgers have the prospects to offer the Phillies and the ability to handle additional payroll. Despite an impressive array of high-priced talent, LA can't seem to pull away from the World Champion San Francisco Giants in the NL West divisional race. Adding Hamels to a rotation led by Clayton Kershaw and Zach Greinke would be obscene. That rotation plus a lineup led by Joc Pederson, Yasiel Puig and Adrian Gonzalez would make the Dodgers the odds-on favorite to win the World Series. Kershaw would be thrilled to add Hamels to the Dodger rotation. "I still can't believe he didn't leave the Phillies for free agency when he had the chance and consider signing with us," Kershaw told Metro last season. "All I know is that Cole Hamels would have looked awfully good in Dodger blue." It could still happen.

2 Rangers

Young slugging prospect Joey Gallo and catcher Jorge Alfaro would be enough to land Hamels if the Rangers really want the Phillies ace. With Yu Darvish out for the season, the Rangers, who are in the thick of things in the AL West, need a stopper. If the Rangers trade for Hamels, could they catch the division-leading Astros and hold off the Angels? The Phillies will rightfully demand top-tier prospects for Hamels. How could they not after the Cubs landed Addison Russell for Jeff Samardzija last season?

3 Cardinals

Hamels would have no problem playing in St. Louis. The Cards have the prospects to deal and even though they are the best team in baseball, St. Louis realizes that it needs an ace to replace Adam Wainwright, who is out of the season. Hamels would be invaluable for the Cards during the postseason with his enviable skill set and experience. The Cardinals know what it takes to win and it wouldn't be shocking if their brain trust works out a deal.

4 Phillies

The Phillies are justifiably asking for the moon for Hamels. The last thing they want to do is give away the team's crown jewel. There is no need to recreate the Cliff Lee trade, which landed the Phillies nothing of note in return. It would be better to hold on to King Cole as opposed to dealing him for little value. Why help another team win a World Series if they fail to offer enough for a hurler who clearly steps it up in October?

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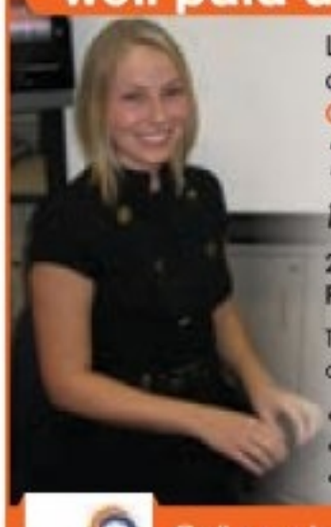

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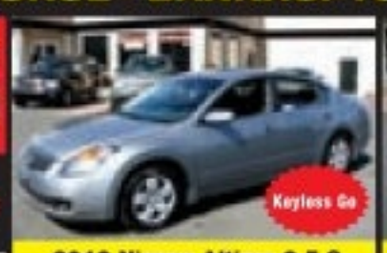

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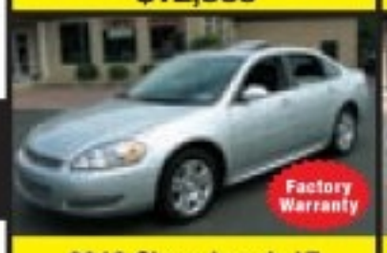

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